

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
SPECIAL MEETING June 2, 2009**

Ms. Menard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 2, 2009 at the East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook.

**ATTENDANCE**

Denise Menard, First Selectman  
Gilbert Hayes, Deputy First Selectman  
Dale Nelson, Selectman  
Mark Simmons, Selectman

Ms. Menard detailed how this is Selectman position is a public position, not an employee matter, so it is held in public session rather than Executive session. In fact, that is the nature of the position, a public position. Also she advised the Board of a challenging questions she fielded – why is there a deadline for applications for the position? This is not by any set rule, not Charter or statute, she tried for an order of the process and as the appointment deadline was approaching, there needed to be an administrative process in place. There is no law, no rule, the date was picked was arbitrary to be able to complete the process in a timely fashion for the meeting.

Three interviews are listed specifically on the Notice of Special Meeting and that cannot be changed – no added agenda items for Special Meeting. Ms. Menard advised the Board that there is an additional, fourth application, which can be addressed at the regular meeting. But only the three candidates can be interviewed at the Special Meeting. An agenda item can be added to the Regular meeting agenda (to be held at 7:30 this evening) for the fourth candidate interview. This will be discussed at the regular meeting this evening.

The following applicants were heard. (Secretarial note: this is not a transcript, but minutes taken of **questions** [in bold] and answers)

**1. ROBERT LYKE**

He presented his application with cover letter to the Board.

**Why he feels best interest of town to fill vacancy now to November with him?**

Like as much time as possible to give back to town and pursue some longtime goals helping with growth town business. Important whomever fill vacancy fill from tonight on in order to help catch up. One thing makes this easy for him is the passing of the budget – as now whoever minority member of board is the major project is gone and can go on with the process and their own agenda.

**How can you make a better board?** Long time personal interest in seeing the town come up with eventually Director of Finance. It is a long time objective on his personal

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agenda to help local business because of years experience in business, including his own business.

**Personal strengths?** In business world, from reviews given by peers, customers, supervisors, - say without a doubt communication and trust to build long term relationship.

**Long term goals where do you see E.W. ten years down the road?** Like to see have more unified effort in the budget process to get across party lines. Like to personally try and attract people not involved in town government and ask volunteers to fill vacancies on boards and commissions and make bipartisan effort.

**Say not selected – where would he feel comfortable sharing expertise on other boards?** The Economic Development commission, when properly funded. **Further question: money in CIP for study on North Road – what do you mean by properly funded?** In business world you have a five year game plan – state has a two year plan. Like to see gradual budget increase for EDC for \$5,000 to include long term growth to paraprofessional long term developer – to promote business in town now and to recruit business that is going to other towns.

**Minority representation – only time Board are party oriented – are situations like this and the Board works together as a team – and that is what they are looking for a team member.** Lyke is all about teamwork, communication, sharing communications as liaison to other boards, commissions, town officials – all about that. For direct answer, have experience and has served as minority member of this board in the past for two full terms in the past. *Ms. Menard indicated and Mr. Simmons concurred, that there Republicans are never treated as minority members. Mr. Simmons agreed that there are no party lines on this current board.*

He has time on his hand as a retiree and a lot of this is for love of the town. His kids are grown and not going to come back to East Windsor, but they got a good education. This is his pay back.

**Budget process – this year one of best budget processes in past ten years. Is there something you would like to have seen done differently? Anything in his opinion could have done better? What done better today – how prepare better next time?** All goes back to communications – let left hand know what right hand is doing. Like to think that this bipartisan board – with works together – would have the same thought process on the board of finance. The process needs to be fair and above board. Also need to have trust with members and be proactive. East to write press release and do Monday morning quarterback – if there is not a better candidate don't knock the person who is putting name in hat.

**Describe yourself in more than three words what would they be?**  
Energetic, enthusiastic and trustworthy.

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**2. RICHARD PIPPIN**

Ms. Menard went over her opening remarks again as Mr. Pippin came in after her statement.

**How do you feel bring something to Board and reason for coming to apply?** He stated he has been in town since 1967 involved in public service and other areas since that time. Thinks he can be objective and look at both sides of issues and be fair and represent both sides of town – do not care about what party you belong to – do what’s fair for town. Did not want to make this move until he was out of fire department long enough and until he was comfortable being open and objective and work with whoever on the board. He was Vice Chair at North Central and helped a lot out in that capacity. Cost him money as once he helped them out he could not do business with them – losing work. If he helps someone out here he cannot get work from them.

**Conflicts considered that have to be weighed?** Yes has to be the town – similar to what he did on North Central, based on an appearance of impropriety. Also agrees this process of interviewing applicants had to be done public.

**If serve on board what would one of the goals be for E.W.– what bring to table?** See fairness and not party line on everything. Like to see couple things done differently – have capital improvement and let’s use it and like to see real bidding on stuff. Why spend millions of dollars on one bid. Maybe cost exactly the same, but thinks things have slipped through – so the CIP and the bid process. Also, like to see taxpayers get as much bang for buck as possible. Like to see the dollar go as far as it can and still maintain quality – sometimes you need to be a little or a lot thrifty.

**Vision for E.W. Future – long term?** Like to see it stay a nice little town – semi-rural. Do not want to see the government taking things from the people. Not into control – family owns land for five generations – town should fight it? Land suitable for housing and sits there and the best land taken. Thinks need to regulate growth to a point – a certain town around here building one or two schools a year.

**Personal Strengths To Bring?** In business since 1968, no bankruptcy filings yet – 38 years on fire department, retired deputy chief; 15 years on north central, out there as Vice Chair. He has a hands on, working hands background and gets it done.

**Public hearing on May 5 comments presented to him from the minutes? There is a lot of support for education – pass budget one referendum – young families looking for education, if not will move out. What take on education and why think larger classes ok in today age?**

Believe it or not went to a school with two classes in same room – learned more there than ever did in small classes – as more competition among kids to do good. His remark was what are we going to do close general government around to give the others

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everything they want? General government gave a lot – one particular group has not contributed anything. Everybody should be equal – everyone take a freeze, not one or two, but all. Went to school in Durham, Ellington, Haddam.

**How would improve the budget processor what thought of this year budget process?**

Cannot think anything else to do other than what was done – statutory requirements of everything – people had choice and went thru on first time – no three referendums and see you later. Maybe more explanation at annual meeting would be helpful. That got out of hand the annual town meeting, no explanations and people were at the wrong meeting. Town meeting, what can you do at that point, budget submitted and has to be voted on. The budget does not change at that point. If those people had been at public hearings – there it would have done more good. Other than that, what can you do – state statute demands dates and has to be followed.

**What Three words use to describe you? “Get it done”**

**Are you aware of how much time this takes?** It cannot be worse than the fire department. He understands its more than two meetings a month.

**3. JIM RICHARDS**

Ms. Menard went over her opening remarks again as Mr. Richards came in after her statement.

**What do you feel you bring to Board and what attracted you to apply for this?** His record speaks for itself. His involvement in Chamber [of Commerce] came from involvement in EDC. Sees a lot in town and feel time discuss unification rather than he said/she said. The Town is at a cross roads. Personally tried to follow the plan – which he did not write – but he does believe in what was come up with and certain developments to occur. Position at the Chamber as Executive Director has opportunity to represent 42% of tax base. For him this is the normal osmosis to the next level. Here situation continue to have level heads and think about what do in future. Budget process last couple months where he saw negatives coming out. Unfortunate what children were hearing during this budget session – need old and young to figure out what to do for future.

**Asked what he meant by that comment and what the children hear?**

During various discussions that took place with kids he was shocked to find they feel school system and almost like second class citizens in town. He involved in education foundation – to provide things not provided in budget – good at that type of thing. Those are the kinds of things he does with his life- this is another opportunity. Will continue his role as executive director of chamber – making the town regional center of business, create more industry in town. He is not about agendas, but for town and what can be done. Was involved in expansion of sewer plant and that nuclear ordinance which was written correctly. EDC involved with for five years – gone from commission not doing

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much to a very active with very little money. Served on many commissions in town, one party line entire time there. Ethics commission involved in – believes strongly in ethics. Cannot remember all he has done – blurs a bit.

Children from this school system – last year at graduation and heard kids talking. Saying people in town that don't care about students – there were general population of students. If people leave town and don't come back – lose resource town helped develop. Thought an odd comment and employees doing their best. Children said don't want to give money to schools. **Asked if it was more the parents opinions rather than students?** Kids today are astute and aware – sort of scary aware. Through years hear things like not enough copy paper, etc. If you read the newspapers it does not come out positive.

**What vision for E.W. ten years from now?** Same vision for twenty thirty years at this point – town unique setting, unique zoning to keep rural nature, great district for industrial development, advocate for sewer on north road, as knows with that kind of development, at budget time, if keep industry in town and tax base high enough for business – then when come to education and general infrastructure, can pay for it. If this was s business it would be trying to keep it together – get to point where yes, may have to raise taxes, but sitting in good seat. This is the vision he was taught when came here – can see what south Windsor did wrong, as they are not set up as East Windsor is. E.W. is set up for industrial area specific. Plan he tries to follow is correct – develop as you need to and develop certain sectors. Very fortunate to have Tim Howes at school and he believes Fire Departments are important and need equipment. Police Department important. Yes can have state troupers, but the state is turning to charge for state troupers, thinks the town just started to develop a police department. As for Human Services he would like to see everyone in town taken care of – bothers him to see food cabinet empty situations – like the town to take care of those things. As you see with tax money – charitable contributions dry up too. Part of why volunteer as town leaders are ones to step up with a plan and move forward.

**Budget process – mentioned negativity. What would you help assist to do better?** Instead of telling Finance Board and commissions lets see how go – maybe a poll in town. There is rhetoric and others like increase and decrease in specific areas – truly believe this budget could not have had much more cut out of it without sacrifice. People do not pay attention – if can get students involved and do a census or pre-questionnaire about opinions of budget – to give Finance board an opportunity.

**If BOF says we do not need poll because we know from public hearing?** If he was on board of selectmen the would do anyway. The information is gathered. It was reminded that finance is not selectmen role – he felt that the Selectmen are leaders and should take advantage of all resources. If general poll – then get a general populace opinion not a political one.

**Exit poll or other?** During Charter it was suggested why not have A thru F for an option – general idea of population. Not who is loudest voice, squeaky wheel. If you get half people to respond

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**Losing ten teachers and classes larger – with larger classes think get by that way?**

E.W. does not have the money to do anything different than what we are currently doing. Bring back to original discussion firm believer in economic development to offset cost of education and infrastructure and believes the town plan sets e.w. up for success with that. He is a real promoter of economic development. Business does bring money.

**What are strengths help the town?** Rotarian for 25 years and when do business is it truth, is it fair to all concerned, and kids know it too. Love East Windsor, started here at 19 working for Mulnights. He is excited about cultural aspect – opera house, restaurants staying longer – renovations in Broad Brook and could go further of village of Broad Brook. If want to get crazy bring Trolley Museum to Church Street. He used to be involved in travel business so he understands the tourism portion is important too.

**Use three words to describe yourself?** Nice guy.

**MOTION: To adjourn at 6:59 p.m.**

**Made by Mr. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Nelson**

**ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Croxford